Washington State Patrol
Media Release

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Date: **May 22, 2006**
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District 4 Troopers Will Be Out In Force for Memorial Day Weekend

The Washington State Patrol will be out in full force statewide for the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend. The WSP emphasis patrols will start on Friday May 26th continuing thru Monday May 29th.

In District 4, there will be nine additional troopers on overtime augmenting the regularly scheduled troopers for the busy travel weekend. The overtime shifts are funded with grant money from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. Troopers will concentrate their efforts in the north part of Spokane County and south Stevens County, where many of last year's most serious collisions occurred.

Drivers should expect to see a heavy WSP presence on State Highways 395 and 2. The Washington State Department of Transportation will be placing portable electronic billboards on SR 395 and SR 2 advising motorists of the emphasis patrols. Troopers will be strictly enforcing core mission violations including speeding, seat belt/child restraints, aggressive and DUI driving. Motorists should plan ahead, have a designated driver, call a taxi or a friend. There will be zero tolerance for drivers found driving impaired.

In 2005, WSP troopers responded to 31 collisions during Memorial Day weekend. Out of those collisions 19 involved property damage, seven had injuries, two involved a DUI arrest and two were fatality collisions (both occurred in north Spokane County). During the same time period troopers removed 35 impaired drivers.

"It is our goal to have no serious injury or fatal collisions during this busy weekend," said WSP Captain Jeff Otis. "We will do everything within our power to prevent these tragedies from occurring on our roadways."

********MEDIA RIDE ALONGS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST********

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